THE
DISSEMINATOR
Nova Scotia Provincial Library
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To Chief Librarians:
This electronic information sheet is being distributed to all Regional Librarians and members of the Automation Working Group.

Please distribute this to staff and boards. Thanks.

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T H E D I S S E M I N A T O R 1.2
January 7, 1994

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Editor's Note: I have just been informed that a Nova Scotia Regional Libraries Newsletter produced in 1971 and 1972 was also called The Disseminator!! Coincidence? Or Vulcan Mind-meld? Please note that I am available for functions and parties to perform my newfound psychic abilities.
Sue Dirani - "Clairvoyant to the Stars".

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Marion Pape will be away from the office from January 19-26 inclusive. While she is away she hopes to tour the Calgary Public School Board MultiLIS/MEDIANET application. This software will allow Education Media Services to mount their film/video database on the Provincial Library system and will incorporate booking needs.

Department of Education Staffing Changes

By now you may know that Bob Moody has been appointed as Deputy Minister of the Department of Education. Congratulations to him for this significant accomplishment. John Levangie has had his long term disability term extended until April. Wayne Doggett's term as Acting Executive Director, Policy Branch has been extended until February 28, 1994.

2007-05053/

Regional Libraries Funding Formula Review Report

The Regional Libraries Funding Formula Review Committee submitted its report to the Deputy Minister just before Christmas. There will be further discussions with the Deputy Minister in the coming weeks in terms of next stages of a consultation process and action plan. More information will be forthcoming as soon as arrangements have been determined.

Automation Update

The database load has been completed and the entire database is now searchable on the OPAC. As with any technological improvement, it is not without its problems. Although multiLIS staff did a super job of the conversion, there remain many "funny things" that will have to be corrected. All the years when we did not proof read the Utlas inputting is now seen before your very eyes! Technical Services staff and Susan Barnes are working out procedures for you in the regions to report problems you find as you are searching and for our staff to correct problems on an ongoing basis.

Now that the holidays are over we will be working again with NSTN doing what is necessary to complete the e-mail conversion to PCEudora.

We have a student from the Atlantic Computer Institute doing an 8 week work experience session with us. Gerald started on January 4 and will be here until the end of February. He will be gaining experience on our network and helping us make some changes to our LAN configuration that we have been wanting to do. He will also be working with User Services in doing some script work for ILL and working on some staff training sessions.

Strategic Planning for N.S. Regional Libraries

Marion Pape, Donna Bourne-Tyson and Andrea John are preparing for the next event in the Strategic Planning process. On January 14, at the Dartmouth Regional Library, the Planning Team members will come together as they did in Truro last spring, to discuss the issues and possible solutions identified to date, and to develop a plan of do-able actions which will become a part of the final strategic plan.

Department of Education Strategic Planning

The Draft Mission and Goals of the Department have been distributed for comments and each Branch is developing its objectives at the present

time. The process is moving along quite quickly, and the plan should soon be in place. The public consultation process that will be set up following the release of the plan could provide an excellent opportunity for library participation.

Technical Services Staff

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As many of you already know, Wendy Duff has left NSPL on a leave of absence to pursue her PhD in Library Science at the University of Pittsburgh. While Wendy is away, Donna Bourne-Tyson will be supervising the day to day acquisitions, cataloguing and processing activities, database design, and liaising with vendors and suppliers, as Head of Technical Services. Betsy Armstrong is assuming over-all responsibility for Technical Services.

Reference Request Tips

Reference Services staff would like to ask for your assistance in assuring relevant and timely responses to your patron's needs. When making a subject request please note the suggestions below:

1. Include the source of reference (i.e., where did your patron find the information?)
2. Provide us with all of the information given by the original requester.
Such details as the nationality or era of an author or subject provide our staff with valuable clues for searching.
3. Indicate the places you have already checked and/or what material the patron has already seen. This will prevent us from duplicating your steps and providing you with information you already have.
4. Indicate the age or knowledge level of your patron (i.e. for grade six student, or for medical researcher).
5. Send a photocopy of any pertinent information supplied by your patron. A picture can be worth a thousand words.
6. Take care when transcribing the information. A misspelled name can waste valuable time in providing service to you.
7. Please be selective about what you label an "urgent" or "rush" request and include a date by which the material is required.

We understand that this is more time consuming but any detail will help us to help you. These suggestions are based on guidelines developed by the National Library's Reference Division.

Regional Library Statistics

Frank Oram is pleased to report that the Annual Statistics document is on

its way out to the regional libraries this week. This year we published a full-length report for the Regional Librarians, and an abridged version for distribution to trustees and others. This has saved several hundred dollars in printing, and we hope the abridged version will meet the needs of the trustees. Frank welcomes your comments on the two documents.

Community Access Network

Andrea is continuing her work on the Community Access Network, also known as the freenet. She has been making many sales calls to tell people and organizations what a community network is, and why they should join. The Network is still looking for financial support, and is developing its Business Plan. Stay tuned each issue for an update on this! Also, planning for the Cape Breton freenet is well underway with the contribution of several Cape Breton librarians including Ian MacIntosh and Faye Hopkins.

ILL Update

At the ILL conference in September, it was agreed that a chart listing every region's lending policies would be very helpful. A preliminary version of this chart had been distributed in the ILL Survey results compiled before the conference. We are still working on the revised chart; however, to make this chart even more useful, we are hoping to mount it on NcompasS as well as supplying it in paper form. This will probably take a bit longer than originally estimated. If any library has revised their lending policies since September (i.e. cds are now available for ILL), please let Donna Bourne-Tyson or Dale MacMillan know.

User Services Staff

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Donna Bourne-Tyson has taken on new responsibilities in the Technical Services Section and, while she will remain responsible for Interlibrary Loans, Strategic Planning, and the Summer Reading Program, she will not be performing Reference duties. Reference tasks will continue to be carried out by Carol Morris, Sue Dirani, Frank Oram and Arlene Watts. We also have the assistance of Robin Allen, a Library Technician student from the Nova Scotia Community College, who began her work session with us on January 4. She will be with us for three weeks.

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That's it for this issue. Stay tuned . . . .

If you have any questions or comments about the activities mentioned, please contact the people involved. Comments about

THE DISSEMINATOR should be directed to Sue Dirani or Donna Bourne-Tyson.

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